

Mount Rainier National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Keep Wildlife Wild



Don't risk being bitten,
scratched, pecked, or
kicked!

Please don't feed the wildlife! Early in the history of national parks, people were encouraged to get close to and even feed wild animals. Until the 1960s, the Paradise area of Mount Rainier National Park had an open garbage pit where the bears would gather to eat. Visitors could pay \$1 to ride a bus to the dump and see them rummage through the trash.

Times have changed. We now know that the animals that call this place home need to eat the food nature provides. Still, one of the most common mistakes people make at Mount Rainier National Park is to feed the wildlife. Visitors seeking a personal connection with animals think they are "helping" them.

What they usually don't know is that feeding wild animals hurts them in the end. Beggar squirrels, chipmunks, and gray jays can become bloated and malnourished with junk food. They learn to approach cars and often get hit. Furthermore, these animals are more likely to starve during less busy times. This doesn't *help* them at all!

If these aren't enough reasons to keep nature wild, feeding the animals in Mount Rainier National Park carries a \$100 fine. Please help us protect the park's wildlife for the enjoyment of this and future generations.



01/02